NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

One dead, one critical in apparent drug overdoses during concert
20 transported to hospital, 50 alcohol citations issued, three arrests

Howard County police have confirmed the death of a concertgoer who attended the all-day Mad Decent Block Party at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia yesterday.

Tyler Fox Viscardi, 20, of Raleigh, N.C., was transported by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services just after 9 p.m. He was pronounced dead a short time after arriving at Howard County General Hospital. Preliminarily, it appears his death was the result of a drug overdose. Officials are still working to determine what type of drugs were in his system.

Fire department personnel also transported a 17-year-old male from Woodbridge, Va., who appeared to be suffering from an overdose. He is currently in critical condition at the same hospital. It does not appear that the two young men knew one another.

In total, 20 people were taken to the hospital during the event. It appears many of the cases were drug-related. Officials are still working to determine what types of drugs patients may have been using.

Members of the police department's alcohol enforcement unit issued 50 citations for under age drinking during the event. Officers also made three arrests, one for assault on a police officer, another for domestic assault, and a third for possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

The Mad Decent Block Party is a music festival that travels throughout the country. Investigators have learned that other venues have seen similar circumstances at these events.

As the summer concert season continues, police are urging concertgoers to attend shows safely and not to engage in illegal activities such as drug use and under age drinking. Shows are regularly staffed with police, both uniformed and undercover, to deter and identify illegal activity.

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